

CAROLINA SILVERBELL

Halesia Carolina L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Opposum-wood, Silverbell, Snow-drop-tree.

FORM: Rarely 40 feet high, short trunk often divided near the ground into several spreading branches, forming a round-headed tree.

BARK: $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, slightly ridged, reddish-brown, separating into closely appressed scales.

TWIGS: At first glabrous or densely pubescent, later red-brown.

LEAVES: Elliptic to oblong-obovate, abruptly acuminate and long-pointed at apex, rounded or cuneate at base, dentate with small remote callous teeth, yellow-green and glabrous above, pale and glabrous or slightly villous below on the midrib and primary veins, 3-4 inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 inches wide, 6-7 inches long on the leading shoots.

FLOWERS: About $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, on glabrous or slightly or densely villose pedicels $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length, from the axils of evanescent bracts, corolla narrowed below into a short tube, white, sometimes tinged with rose.

FRUIT: Oblong to oblong-obovate, 4-winged, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, usually one-seeded; seed rounded at the narrow ends, $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Ellipsoid to ovoid, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long with thick broad-ovate dark red, acute scales.

WOOD: Light, soft, close-grained, light brown with thick lighter colored sapwood.

USES: Landscaping

HABITAT: Wooded slopes and banks of streams.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Flowers about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; fruit 4-winged, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; a round-headed tree, rarely 40 feet high; short trunk, divided near the ground.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Lauderdale, Colbert, Cullman, Cherokee, Talladega, Coosa, Clay, Elmore, Montgomery, Autauga, Dallas, Coffee, Butler, and Clarke Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 4. A nutlet |
| 2. Vertical section of a fruit
with one seed developed | 5. A seed |
| 3. Cross section of a fruit
with one seed developed | 6. Vertical section of a seed |
| | 7. An embryo |



***Halesia Carolina* L.**